



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

**15 JUNE 2021**

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### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

#### **(U) Los Angeles – MWD Among Targets in Large-Scale Cyber-Espionage Hack**

(U) A cyber-espionage campaign blamed on China was more sweeping than previously known, with suspected state-backed hackers exploiting a device meant to boost internet security to penetrate the computers of critical US entities. Among the suspected targets was the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, which provides water to 19 million people and operates some of the largest treatment plants in the world.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [The Los Angeles Times](#)

#### **(U) San Bernardino – Trio Plead Guilty in \$1.2 Million COVID-19 Unemployment Fraud**

(U) An Inland Empire woman pled guilty to a federal fraud charge, admitting that she collected hundreds-of-thousands-of-dollars in bogus COVID-related unemployment benefits on behalf of California prison inmates. Paris Thomas, 33, of San Bernardino used dozens of prisoners' and other people's identities to collect \$477,000 in illicit payments from the state agency that processes unemployment payments. In pleading guilty, Thomas joined two other women who admitted to running the same scam. Together, the women collected \$1.2 million in unemployment payments in the names of more than 100 people, most of whom were inmates.

SOURCE: 14 June 2021, [The Los Angeles Times](#)

#### **(U) San Diego – Number of 'Ghost Guns' Seized by San Diego Police Doubled Since Last Year**

(U) San Diego police are on pace this year to nearly double the number of ghost guns (firearms that are assembled by hand and are usually untraceable) that they impounded last year, according to a new report on the proliferation of such weapons in the city. Police have gone from finding and seizing an average of 17.6 ghost guns a month last year to an average of 35.6 ghost guns a month this year, according to the report San Diego police provided to a member of the City Council Friday. Of every five guns police seize, one is a ghost gun, and the report states the consensus among investigators in the department's Special Operations Unit is that 90-percent of the ghost guns San Diego police found were made by "a small group of people" that sell the guns by using social media.

SOURCE: 14 June 2021, [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

### **(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

#### **(U) California – Chinese National among 16 Found Aboard Panga Heading to US Coast**

(U) San Diego – Authorities took custody of 16 undocumented migrants aboard a single engine "panga" type vessel offshore San Diego. The men, 15 Mexican nationals and one Chinese national, were attempting to illegally enter the US when they were intercepted. Authorities determined that all 16 men on board were attempting to illegally enter the US and brought the occupants to the dock while USCG towed the panga to Naval Base Point Loma.

SOURCE: 14 June 2021, [US CBP](#)

**(U) NATIONAL**

**(U) Alabama – Workplace Shooting at Water Distribution Plant Leaves Two Dead, Two Injured**

(U) Albertville – A workplace shooting in Albertville left two people dead and two others wounded. An employee of Mueller Co., a water distribution company, opened fire on coworkers at about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday at a plant. The suspect, who has not been identified, left the scene in a vehicle. The suspect, who has not been publicly identified, was later found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Yahoo! News](#)

**(U) District of Columbia – US to Take Steps Against White Supremacists and Militia Groups**

(U) Washington DC – Five months after the attack on the US Capitol, the Biden administration will unveil steps for federal and local officials, and social media companies to battle national security threats posed by white supremacists and militia groups. US Attorney General Merrick Garland will release a plan for increased information sharing, additional resources to identify and prosecute threats, and new deterrents to prevent Americans from joining dangerous groups. The administration conducted a sweeping assessment earlier this year of domestic terrorism that labeled white supremacists and militia groups as top national security threats.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

**(U) District of Columbia – FBI Warns That QAnon Followers Could Engage in ‘Real-World Violence’**

(U) Washington DC – The FBI has warned that followers of the QAnon conspiracy theory could again engage in violence against political opponents out of frustration that the theory's predictions have not come true. In an FBI bulletin, experts believe that some believers in predictions of political upheavals promoted on QAnon websites and bulletin boards believe they can "no longer trust the plan." Given the failure of QAnon's predictions to materialize, the FBI bulletin warns that some QAnon adherents "likely will begin to believe" they have an "obligation" to transform themselves from "serving as 'digital soldiers' towards engaging in real world violence" against Democrats and "other political opposition."

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

**(U) North Carolina – Authorities Detain Suspect Who Opened Fire on Police Station**

(U) Winston-Salem – Several shots were fired into a Winston-Salem Police Department office on 14 June, a suspect is in custody and a homicide investigation is underway after the suspect's mother and grandmother were found dead in their homes. The suspect, later identified as 26-year-old William Scott, got out of the vehicle and began firing at officers. Officers returned fire and chased him on foot through the Hanes Park area. The suspect was shot, officers immediately rendered aid and detained the suspect. No other officers were injured during the shooting.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [WNCT 9](#)

**(U) Virginia – Virginia Couple Plead Guilty in US Capitol Riot, Setting Precedent**

(U) Bristow – A Virginia couple on Monday pleaded guilty to demonstrating unlawfully in the US Capitol during the 6 January attack, a misdemeanor with a sentence of up to six-months, in a plea deal that could set a benchmark for hundreds of other cases. Jessica and Joshua Bustle of Bristow, Virginia were the first to reach such an agreement with prosecutors on a misdemeanor charge. They admitted during a court hearing that they violated a federal law that prohibits "parading, demonstrating, or picketing" inside the Capitol without proper authorization. Their sentence will likely act as a precedent for hundreds of defendants also facing charges of misdemeanors, lesser crimes than the felonies that instigators are facing, in the 6 January riot by former President Donald Trump's supporters.

SOURCE: 14 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

## UNCLASSIFIED

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### **(U) Canada – Canadian Man Accused of Murdering a Muslim Family to Face Terror Charges**

(U) London – A Canadian man who is accused of deliberately running over five members of a Muslim family with his truck, killing four of them, now faces terrorism charges in addition to counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder. Nathaniel Veltman, 20, was arrested shortly after the 6 June attack in a parking lot in London, Ontario, a short distance from the city's oldest mosque. He was wearing what appeared to be body armor and a helmet at the time. So far, few details have emerged that would shed light on why police say the attack was a pre-meditated, hate-motivated crime.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Somalia – At Least 15 People Killed in Suicide Bombing at Army Camp**

(U) Mogadishu – At least 15 people were killed in a suicide bombing as recruits lined up outside an army camp in the Somali capital Mogadishu. Officials at the hospital confirmed the dead were killed in an attack earlier in the day at a checkpoint outside the General Degaban military training camp in the capital. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Islamist group al-Shabaab frequently carries out bombings in the Horn of Africa country.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Taiwan – Taiwan Reports Largest Incursion Yet by Chinese Air Force**

(U) Taipei City – Twenty-eight Chinese air force aircraft, including fighters and nuclear-capable bombers, entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone, the island's government said, the largest reported incursion to date. While there was no immediate comment from Beijing, the news comes after the Group of Seven leaders issued a joint statement on Sunday scolding China for a series of issues and underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, comments China condemned as "slander."

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

### **(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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